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CIA plans to return to campus

Recruiters to limit visit to a day in November

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Recruiters from the Central Intelligence Agency will return this fall to the University of Colorado, but only for one day.

The CIA representatives, who conducted three days of employment interviews on campus last spring and encountered three days of demonstrations, have agreed to limit their recruiting time in the fall to minimize the disruption associated with the protests.

Gordon Gray, CU director of career services, said the CIA will be on campus in November. He said the exact date is still under discussion.

This spring police arrested 478 non-violent demonstrators who charged that the CIA has promoted murder and other crimes in Central America by supporting groups such as the Nicaraguan contras. The protesters tried to enter a campus building to make "citizens' arrests" of the recruiters.

Authorities later dropped charges against the protesters, who had wanted to provoke a jury trial to document their own case against the CIA. But the three days of demonstrations diverted time and money from campus and city agencies, particularly the University police force.

As a result, CIA recruiters agreed to come on a single day and to bring more interviewers so that

any student who wants to apply will have the opportunity. Five interviewers saw about 140 applicants last spring.

At one point, University staff members reportedly suggested that the CIA adopt an even lower profile, by interviewing over the Thanksgiving holiday or staying off campus altogether.

Tom White, the CIA's chief recruiter in Denver, acknowledged that one CU staff member, whom he declined to name, suggested earlier this year that the agency not interview on campus at all.

But University officials now say, as they have in the past, that the CIA is a legitimate employer and should be allowed to conduct interviews as other employers do.

Students and other Boulder residents who organized last year's protests are planning to greet the CIA recruiters again this fall.

"The exact form or substance has yet to be determined," Jonathan Lindgren, a CU student who helped to organize last year's demonstrations, said Monday. But Lindgren added that the protests will continue, "just as the contra war in Nicaragua continues."